

BARRY GLASSMAN
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILLY BONIFACE
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION



JOSEPH J. SIEMEK, P.E.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC NOTICE

April 5, 2019

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as “Section 4(f),” and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, the Harford County Department of Public Works (HADPW) is notifying the public through this notice that it will request the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding in accordance with Section 4(f) regarding the permanent effects of the proposed **Rehabilitation of Stafford Road Bridge over Deer Creek**, and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment of this proposed determination.

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) allows the FHWA to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. With respect to publicly owned parks and recreation areas, a finding of *de minimis* impact may occur if a transportation project does not “adversely affect the activities, features and attributes” of the Section 4(f) resource. When this is the case, FHWA requires written concurrence from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. Public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

The purpose of this project is to provide a safe roadway condition for the traveling public. The existing three span continuous steel beam bridge carrying Stafford Road over Deer Creek built in 1950 is structurally deficient. The proposed work includes the rehabilitation of the existing structure consisting of construction of a new bridge superstructure, repairs to the existing bridge abutments and piers, reconstruction of the roadway approaches, and replacement of guardrail, among other related improvements. The new superstructure will consist of steel beams supporting a concrete bridge deck. The bridge deck will provide for a 23.5-foot clear roadway width consisting of two 9-foot travel lanes with a 1-foot offset area to the south of the travel lanes to the proposed bridge railing and a 4.5-foot offset area to the north of the travel lanes to the proposed bridge railing. The approach roadway work will be limited to transition the existing roadway to meet the new bridge superstructure, a total of 90 feet on the east approach to the bridge and a total of 120 feet on the west approach to the bridge. Since this project will involve full removal and replacement of the bridge deck, Stafford Road will need to be fully closed to vehicular and pedestrian use at the bridge site for approximately 9 months. The road closure period will begin the week after Labor Day and go through the week before Memorial Day. A traffic detour route around the site will use existing roads.

To limit impacts to the Susquehanna State Park (SSP) landscape and the park users the HADPW has taken the following measures: 1) Designed the construction schedule so the nine month full closure period does not take effect during the park's peak summer season (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend), 2) Minimized limit of disturbance to the area in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, 3) No construction staging, stockpiling of materials or heavy equipment allowed outside of designated areas, 4) Abiding to stream restriction period with no in-stream work between February 15 – August 31, 5) Restoring the limit of disturbance with a native seed mix, and 6) Mitigating impacts to the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and tree removal by planting trees within the project limit of disturbance and at a picnic area within SSP.

The proposed bridge rehabilitation will require permanent and temporary easements from the SSP, owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Although the easements required from the recreation area are considered a “use” as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), there will be no negative impact on the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). HADPW, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request the FHWA make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

Written comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact findings may be submitted to the HADPW Project Manager, Glen Hebel, during the 15-day comment period through **April 19, 2019** by e-mail at gchebel@harfordcountymd.gov or by regular mail to:

Glen C. Hebel, P.E.
Harford County Department of Public Works
212 South Bond St.
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